Schultz group sweeps race

HOMESTEAD—Steel Valley Concerned Democrats, an independent group of Democrats, swept incumbents away Tuesday as the group's five borough council candidates won, according to official results.

About 41 percent of the registered voters in Homestead went to the polls.

In Ward 1, Wanda Burwell and Betty Esper won with 244 and 243 votes, respectively; Neil Allen got 244 votes and Joe Capp got 275 in Ward 2 to take that council race; and Alex Schultz, who got the highest number of votes out of all the council candidates, received 382 votes in Ward 3.

The closest race was in Ward 1 where Esper won over Incumbent Councilman John Hickey by only 16 votes.

Schultz, on the other hand, had a 181-vote edge over his nearest contender, Incumbent John Sullivan.

Schultz said today he "did most of the putting together" of the Steel Valley Concerned Democratic teams. He said he approached some Homestead residents to see if they were willing to run for council and put together advertising and leaflet material.

He said the independent Democrats' team work is what helped its candidates win.

"I encouraged them to run, but they did it on their own," Schultz said. "I'm proud of them...The people of Homestead had enough concern to get out and vote."

Schultz is the son of Councilwoman Marcella Schultz. When asked about a possible conflict of interest after the general election—when the primary winners will almost certainly win since there were no Republican candidates in Tuesday's council race—he said he does not think there will be any conflict.

Schultz said Homestead needed candidates who "can think" and work for the borough.

"I think the people have confidence in us (he and Ms. Schultz) and there won't be a conflict," he said. "They (the voters) knew my mother needed help on council."

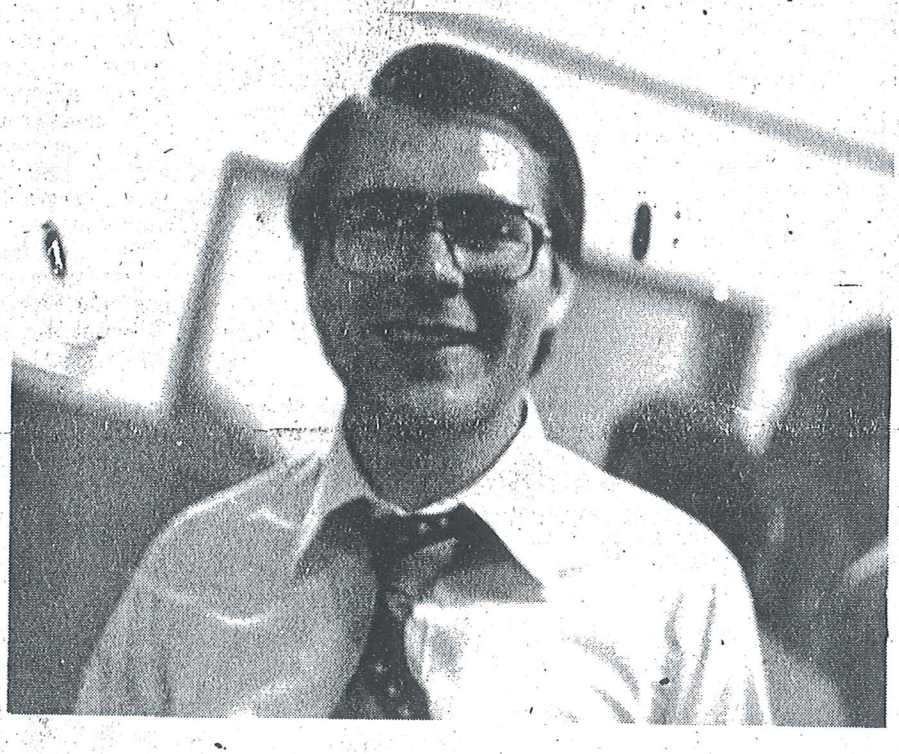
The votes the Democratic winners received in each district were: Burwell, 46 in District 1, 135 in District 2 and 63 in District 3; Esper, 65 in 1, 100 in 2 and 78 in 3; Allen, 41 in 1, 84 in 2 and 119 in 3; Capp, 101 in 1, 74 in 2 and 100 in 3; and Schultz, 100 in 1, 163 in 2 and 119 in 3.

Votes for other council candidates included: 227 votes for Hickey and 209 for Incumbent Edwin Tester in Ward 1; 226 votes for Incumbent Robert McCallister and 200 for Incumbent Council President James Harvey in Ward 2; and 201 votes for Sullivan and 33 votes for Fred Bair in Ward 3.

In races for constable, Donald Purifoy won in Ward 2 for that post with 252 votes compared to 192 votes for Charles Wilson. The single Republican running in Homestead, Clarence Stewart, got six votes for the position of constable in Ward 2.

In Ward 3, Democrat Charles Irwin Westbrooks won over contender Ronald Carr by 319 to 243 in that constable race.

The lone constable candidate in Ward 1, Fire Capt. Owen McCallister, received 280 votes from Homestead Democrats in that ward.



SMILING after a Homestead victory is Alex Schultz, who won in the Third Ward for a Homestead Borough Council seat with 382 votes. He received more votes than any other Democratic candidate seeking the five council positions up for grabs.